<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

1. (currently amended) A method for managing software assets of a business entity using a web-based system including a server system coupled to a centralized database and at least one client system, the business entity having a software management process, said method comprising:

identifying at least one software asset satisfying a predetermined requirement of the business entity;

initiating and completing an acquisition process of the at least one software asset satisfying the predetermined business requirement;

deploying the acquired software asset <u>including installing the acquired software asset on at least one of the server system and the at least one client system, the deployed software asset is accessed using the at least one client system</u>;

storing in the centralized database information relating to ~~each~~ <u>the acquired</u> software asset ~~owned or licensed by the business entity~~ including <u>storing</u> terms and conditions of ~~each~~ <u>a</u> corresponding software license;

maintaining ~~each~~ <u>the acquired</u> software asset ~~licensed by the business entity~~ including reviewing ~~each~~ <u>the</u> software license and installing updated software <u>on at least one of the server system and the at least one client system</u> when provided by the software license;

retiring ~~a~~ <u>the acquired</u> software asset when the <u>acquired</u> software asset is no longer required by the business entity<u> including de-installing the acquired software asset</u>; and

auditing ~~each~~ <u>the acquired</u> software asset ~~owned or licensed by the business entity~~ <u>by</u>:

<u>transmitting data from the server to the at least one client system to display an assessment worksheet on the at least one client system, the worksheet including at least one question relating to the acquired software asset;</u>

prompting a user to respond to ~~the~~ at least one question ~~relating to the corresponding software asset uploaded from the server system to the~~ <u>displayed on the at least one</u> client system<u>;</u>

<u>processing at the server at least one response received from the user to the at least one question displayed; and</u>

<u>calculating at the server a sigma value based at least in part on the at least one response received from the user, wherein the sigma value indicates</u> ~~for quantifying~~ compliance with the software management process of the business entity <u>including compliance with the terms and conditions of the software license corresponding to the acquired software asset.</u>

2. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of identifying at least one software asset further comprises the steps of storing and updating information into the database relating to each identified software asset.

3. (original) A method according to Claim 2 wherein said steps of storing and updating information into the database further comprises the step of storing and updating at least as one of a last name of an employee, a first name of the employee, a middle initial of the employee, a status of the employee, a building and room code where the employee is located, a work phone number, a user identification, an e-mail address, a facsimile number, a manager's name who has direct supervisory authority over the employee, a department name and code of the department, a payroll number, a social security number, and a pay cycle category such as weekly, biweekly and monthly.

4. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 3 wherein said steps of storing and updating information into the database further comprises the step of storing and updating at least one of a software title, a software serial number, a software manufacturer, a brief description of the software, a date on which software was acquired, restrictions or limitations on software use, employees on whose desktop the software was installed, purchase order details

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relating to the software verifying the proof of purchase, comments on software functionality, and details useful to prove legal ownership and use of the software.

5. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 3 wherein said steps of storing and updating information into the database further comprises the step of storing and updating at least one of a serial number for hardware, a name of an employee whom the specific hardware has been assigned to and the date on which assigned, details on the hardware such as a manufacturer's name, an address, warranty information, hardware capabilities including specifications, month and a year of acquisition, hardware classification such as a desktop unit or a laptop unit, lease related information, if applicable, and details useful to prove legal ownership and use of the hardware.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 3 wherein said steps of storing and updating information into the database further comprises the step of storing and updating at least one of a department title, a manager's name, a manager's social security number, a manager's mail stop code, a telephone number and an extension, a business unit contact person's name, a telephone number, mail code, address, and facsimile number of the contact person.

8. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 3 wherein said steps of storing and updating information into the database further comprises the step of storing and updating at least one of a vendor name, a vendor's business address including a city, state and zip code, vendor status such as preferred or non preferred, quality rating of the vendor, customer service rating of the vendor, contact person's name for the vendor, terms on which the vendor expects to get paid, and vendor relationship details regarding the vendor.

9. (original) A method according to Claim 3 wherein said steps of storing and updating information into the database further comprises the step of storing and updating at least one of general training materials available for each of the software purchased and licensed and instructions on how to obtain such training materials.

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10. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 3 wherein said steps of storing and updating information into the database further comprises the step of storing and updating at least one of self assessment responses against a set of specific questions, responses of independent audit against a set of specific questions, any self assessment comments, comments by an audit committee, ~~Business~~ business unit's name, location, and a person completing self assessment, and compliance information relating to the software management process.

11. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of identifying at least one software asset further comprises the step of defining business requirements to be addressed by the software asset.

12. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of identifying at least one software asset further comprises the step of analyzing information technology requirements.

13. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of identifying at least one software asset further comprises the step of analyzing environmental standards.

14. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of identifying at least one software asset further comprises the step of reviewing and finalizing business solution requirements.

15. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of identifying at least one software asset further comprises the step of identifying software alternatives that meet business requirements.

16. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of initiating and completing acquisition process further comprises the steps of evaluating and checking for existing software contracts.

17. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of initiating and completing an acquisition process further comprises the steps of:

making a decision to at least one of use an existing software, buy a new software, and build a new software; and

implementing the decision to at least one of use an existing software, buy a new software, and build a new software.

18. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 17 wherein said step of implementing the decision further comprises the steps of:

reviewing results of the decision;

preparing and submitting at least one of a request for proposal and a request for information to prospective vendors and reviewing results; and

negotiating and selecting a vendor to acquire the software.

19. (original) A method according to Claim 17 wherein said step of implementing the decision further comprises the step of deciding at least one of copying an existing software and purchasing additional licenses for the existing software.

20. (original) A method according to Claim 18 wherein said step of reviewing results of the decision further comprises the step of at least one of approving the decision and rejecting the decision based on subjective and objective criteria.

21. (original) A method according to Claim 18 wherein said step of reviewing results of the decision further comprises the step of entering the decision into the database.

22. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 18 wherein said step of reviewing results of the decision further comprises the step of ensuring compliance with equity investments guidelines, contract terms and conditions, and legal and financial requirements prior to acquisition of the software.

23. (original) A method according to Claim 18 wherein said step of negotiating and selecting a vendor to acquire the software further comprises the step of executing at least one of a purchase order and a contract to acquire the software.

24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of deploying the acquired software further comprises the steps of:

tracking licenses; and

updating the database with the current information relating to licenses.

26. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of maintaining ~~each~~ the acquired software asset further comprises the steps of:

reviewing maintenance terms of a software license; and

purchasing upgrades for the software license.

27. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of maintaining ~~each~~ the acquired software asset further comprises the step of maintaining software licensed by the business entity.

28. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of maintaining ~~each~~ the acquired software asset further comprises the step of further deploying an upgraded version of the software.

29. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of maintaining ~~each~~ the acquired software asset further comprises the step of updating software purchase related information into the database.

30. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of maintaining ~~each~~ the acquired software asset further comprises the step of updating software license related information into the database.

31. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of maintaining ~~each~~ the acquired software asset further comprises the step of renewing a maintenance contract for each software asset having such a maintenance contract.

32. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of retiring a software asset further comprises:

de-installing and destroying software in accordance with a license to use the software; and

updating the database with revised licensing information.

33. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of retiring a software asset further comprises:

de-installing and destroying software in accordance with a license to use the software; and

updating the database with purchasing information.

34. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of auditing ~~each~~ the acquired software asset further comprises the steps of evaluating and assessing exposure of a department within the business entity.

35. (canceled)

36. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 35 wherein said steps of ~~computing~~ calculating a sigma value further comprises the steps of comparing sigma values computed for each department within the business entity.

37. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 34 wherein said step of auditing ~~each~~ the acquired software asset further comprises the steps of developing and implementing corrective actions to improve the performance of the business entity.

38. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said method further comprising the step of entering information at least through one of a device connected to the client system.

39. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said method further comprising the step of providing information in response to an inquiry.

40. (original) A method according to Claim 39 wherein said step of providing information in response to an inquiry further comprises the steps of:

downloading requested information from a server system; and

displaying requested information on a client system in response to the inquiry.

41. (original) A method according to Claim 39 wherein said step of providing information further comprises the step of printing requested information in a pre-determined format.

42. (original) A method according to Claim 39 wherein said step of providing information further comprises the step of accepting an inquiry from a user.

43. (original) A method according to Claim 42 wherein said step of accepting an inquiry further comprises the steps of:

displaying information on the client system; and

receiving an inquiry from the client system.

44. (original) A method according to Claim 43 wherein said step of receiving an inquiry from the client system further includes the steps of submitting a request through pull down menus.

45. (original) The method according to Claim 43 wherein said step of displaying information further includes displaying an HTML document downloaded by the server system.

46. (original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the client system and the server system are connected via a network and wherein the network is one of a wide area network, a local area network, an intranet and the Internet.

47. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for tracking software assets owned and licensed by a business entity using a computer coupled to a database, the business entity having a software management process, said method comprising:

accessing a centralized the database containing software assets information including data relating to each software asset owned or licensed by the business entity including terms and conditions of each corresponding software license;

searching the database regarding a specific inquiry received from a user;

retrieving information from the database;

causing the retrieved information to be displayed on the computer for tracking, monitoring and auditing purposes; and

auditing each software asset owned or licensed by the business entity by:

transmitting data for a selected software asset from the database to the computer to display an assessment worksheet on the computer, the worksheet including at least one question relating to the selected software asset;

prompting a user to respond to the at least one question displayed on a the computer; system relating to the corresponding software asset for quantifying compliance with the software management process of the business entity.

processing at the computer at least one response received from the user to the at least one question displayed; and

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calculating at the computer a sigma value based at least in part on the at least one response received from the user, wherein the sigma value indicates compliance with the software management process of the business entity including compliance with the terms and conditions of the software license corresponding to the selected software asset.

48. (currently amended) A method for tracking software assets owned and licensed by a business entity using a web-based server system coupled to a database and at least one client system, the business entity having a software management process, said method comprising:

displaying on the client system for a user a software management assessment check list including a series of questions relating to a software asset owned or licensed by the business entity;

receiving at the server system responses entered by the user using the client system to each question included within the software management assessment check list; and

calculating computing a sigma value based on guidelines pre-stored within the database, the calculations are performed using the server system, wherein the sigma value indicates compliance with the software management process of the business entity including compliance with software licenses associated with the software asset.

49. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method in a web-based system for tracking software assets owned and licensed by a business entity and providing a software management sigma value based on pre-stored information, the business entity having a software management process, said method comprising:

storing in a database information relating to a software asset owned or licensed by the business entity including storing terms and conditions of a corresponding software license;

displaying on a computer system an assessment worksheet including questions relating to the software asset;

receiving at ~~a~~ the computer system user input in response to ~~specific questions relating to a software asset owned or licensed by the business entity~~ the assessment worksheet;

analyzing user input against a pre-determined criteria; and

outputting from the computer system a software management sigma value calculated by the computer system based on the user input and the pre-determined criteria, wherein the sigma value indicates compliance with the software management process of the business entity including compliance with the terms and conditions of the software license corresponding to the acquired software asset.

50. (currently amended) A web-based system for managing software assets of a business entity, the business entity having a software management process, said system comprising:

a client system,

a centralized database for storing information, and

a server system configured to be coupled to said client system and said centralized database, said ~~server~~ web-based system further ~~configured to~~ comprising:

means for identifying ~~identify~~ at least one software asset satisfying a predetermined requirement of the business entity;

means for initiating and completing ~~initiate and complete~~ an acquisition process of the at least one software asset satisfying the predetermined business requirement;

means for prompting ~~prompt~~ a user to deploy the acquired software asset including installing the acquired software asset on at least one of the server system and the client system, the deployed software asset is accessed using the client system;

means for storing ~~store~~ in the database information relating to ~~each~~ the acquired software asset ~~owned or licensed by the business entity~~ including storing terms and conditions of ~~each~~ a corresponding software license;

means for maintaining ~~maintain each~~ the acquired software asset ~~licensed by the business entity~~ including prompting the user to review ~~each~~ the software license and ~~install~~ installing updated software on at least one of the server and the client system as provided by the software license;

means for prompting ~~prompt~~ the user to retire ~~a~~ the acquired software asset when the acquired software asset is no longer required by the business entity including de-installing the acquired software asset; and

means for auditing ~~audit each~~ the acquired software asset ~~owned or licensed by the business entity~~ by:

transmitting data from the server to the client system to display an assessment worksheet on the client system, the worksheet including at least one question relating to the acquired software asset;

prompting the user to respond to the at least one question displayed on the client system; ~~relating to the corresponding software asset for quantifying compliance with the software management process of the business entity.~~

processing at the server at least one response received from the user to the at least one question displayed; and

calculating at the server a sigma value based at least in part on the at least one response received from the user, wherein the sigma value indicates compliance with the software management process of the business entity including compliance with the terms and conditions of the software license corresponding to the acquired software asset.

51. (original) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said client system further configured with:

a displaying component; and

a sending component to send an inquiry to the server system so that the server system can process and download the requested information to the client system.

52. (original) A system according to Claim 51 wherein the sending component functions in response to a click of a mouse button.

53. (original) A system according to Claim 51 wherein the sending component functions in response to a voice command.

54. (original) The client system of Claim 51 wherein said server system is protected from access by unauthorized individuals.

55. (original) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said server system is further configured with:

a collection component for collecting information from users into the centralized database;

a tracking component for tracking information on an on-going basis;

a displaying component for displaying information;

a receiving component for receiving an inquiry from the client system; and

an accessing component to access the centralized database and causing the retrieved information to be displayed on the client system.

56. (original) A system according to Claim 55 wherein said server system is further configured with a receiving component for receiving an inquiry to provide information from one of a plurality of users.

57. (original) A system according to Claim 55 wherein said server system is further configured with a processing component for searching and processing received inquiries against the data storage device containing variety of information collected by the collection component.

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58. (original) A system according to Claim 55 wherein said server system is further configured with a retrieving component to retrieve information from the data storage device.

59. (original) A system according to Claim 55 wherein said server system is further configured with an information fulfillment component that downloads the requested information after retrieving from the data storage device to the plurality of users in the order in which the requests were received by the receiving component.

60. (original) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said server system is further configured to provide access only to authorized individuals.

61. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said server system is further configured to store and update information into the database.

62. (original) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system is further configured to store and update at least as one of a last name of an employee, a first name of the employee, a middle initial of the employee, a status of the employee, a building and room code where the employee is located, a work phone number, a user identification, an e-mail address, a facsimile number, a manager's name who has direct supervisory authority over the employee, a department name and code of the department, a payroll number, a social security number, and a pay cycle category such as weekly, biweekly and monthly.

63. (original) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system is further configured to store and update at least one of a software title, a software serial number, a software manufacturer, a brief description of the software, a date on which software was acquired, restrictions or limitations on software use, employees on whose desktop the software was installed, purchase order details relating to the software verifying the proof of purchase, any comments on software functionality, and other pertinent details useful to prove legal ownership and use of the software.

64. (original) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system is further configured to store and update at least one of a serial number for hardware, a name of an

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employee whom the specific hardware has been assigned to and the date on which assigned, details on the hardware such as a manufacturer's name, an address, warranty information, hardware capabilities including specifications, month and a year of acquisition, hardware classification such as a desktop unit or a laptop unit, any lease related information, if applicable, and other pertinent details useful to prove legal ownership and use of the hardware.

65. (original) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system is further configured to store and update at least one of a software title, a software serial number, a software manufacturer, a brief description of the software, a date on which software was licensed, restrictions or limitations on software use, employees on whose desktop the software was installed, contract details relating to the software licensing verifying the license, any comments on software functionality, and other pertinent details useful to prove valid licensing and use of the software.

66. (original) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system is further configured to store and update at least one of a department title, a manager's name, a manager's social security number, a manager's mail stop code, a telephone number and an extension, a business unit contact person's name, a telephone number, mail code, address, facsimile number and other relevant information of the contact person.

67. (original) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system is further configured to store and update at least one of a vendor name, a vendor's business address including a city, state and zip code, vendor status such as preferred or non preferred, quality rating of the vendor, customer service rating of the vendor, contact person's name for the vendor, terms on which the vendor expects to get paid, and any other vendor relationship details regarding the vendor.

68. (original) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system is further configured to store and update at least one of general training materials available for each of the software purchased and licensed and instructions on how to obtain such training materials.

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69. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system is further configured to store and update at least one of self assessment responses against a set of specific questions, responses of independent audit against a set of specific questions, any self assessment comments, comments by an audit committee, ~~Business~~ business unit's name, location, and a person completing self assessment, and compliance information relating to the software management process.

70. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system is further configured to define business requirements to be addressed by the at least one software asset.

71. (original) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system is further configured to analyze information technology requirements.

72. (original) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system is further configured to analyze environmental standards.

73. (original) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system is further configured to review and finalize business solution requirements.

74. (original) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system is further configured to identify software alternatives that meet business requirements.

75. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said server system is further configured to initiate and complete an acquisition process including prompting a user to decide to at least one of using an existing software, buying a new software, and building a new software to satisfy the business requirement.

76. (original) A system according to Claim 75 wherein said server system is further configured to evaluate and check for existing software contracts.

77. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 75 wherein said server system is further configured to:

recommend whether to at least one of use an existing software, buy a new software, and build a new software; and

implement the recommendation to at least one of use an existing software, buy a new software, and build a new software.

78. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 75 wherein said server system is further configured to:

review results of the user's decision;

prepare and submit at least one of a request for proposal and a request for information to prospective vendors; and

select a vendor to acquire the software.

79. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 78 wherein said server system is further configured to recommend at least one of copying an existing software and purchasing additional licenses for the existing software.

80. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 78 wherein said server system is further configured to analyze the user's decision based on subjective and objective criteria.

81. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 78 wherein said server system is further configured to reject the user's decision based on subjective and objective criteria.

82. (original) A system according to Claim 78 wherein said server system is further configured to enter the decision into the database.

83. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 78 wherein said server system is further configured to facilitate compliance with equity investment guidelines, contract terms and conditions and other legal and financial requirements prior to the acquisition of the software.

84. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 78 wherein said server system is further configured to generate at least one of a purchase order and a contract to acquire the software.

85. (canceled)

86. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 84 wherein said server system is further configured to track software licenses.

87. (original) A system according to Claim 84 wherein said server system is further configured to update the database.

88. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said server system configured to analyze maintenance terms of a software contract for maintaining the software asset.

89. (original) A system according to Claim 88 wherein said server system is further configured to purchase upgrades for the software contract.

90. (original) A system according to Claim 88 wherein said server system is further configured to maintain software.

91. (original) A system according to Claim 88 wherein said server system is further configured to deploy an upgraded version of the software.

92. (original) A system according to Claim 88 wherein said server system is further configured to update software purchase related information into the database.

93. (original) A system according to Claim 88 wherein said server system is further configured to update software license related information into the database.

94. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 88 wherein said server system is further configured to renew a maintenance contract for a software asset.

95. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said server system is configured to prompt a user to retire a software asset including de-installing and destroying the software in accordance with a corresponding software license, and updating the database with revised licensing information.

96. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 95 wherein said server system is further configured to update the server system with the purchasing information.

97. (original) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said server system is further configured to evaluate and assess exposure of a department within the business entity.

98. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 97 wherein said server system is further configured to compute a sigma value.

99. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 97 wherein said server system is further configured to compare sigma values computed for each department within the business entity.

100. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said server system is further configured to provide auditing functions.

101. (original) A system according to Claim 100 wherein said server system is further configured to develop and implement corrective actions to improve the performance of the department.

102. (original) A system according to Claim 100 wherein said server system is further configured to enter information at least through one of a device connected to the client system.

103. (original) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said server system is further configured to provide information in response to an inquiry.

104. (original) A system according to Claim 103 wherein said server system is further configured to:

download requested information from a server system; and

display requested information on a client system in response to the inquiry.

105. (original) A system according to Claim 104 wherein said server system is further configured to display an HTML document downloaded by the server system.

106. (original) A system according to Claim 103 wherein said server system is further configured to print requested information in a pre-determined format.

107. (original) A system according to Claim 103 wherein said server system is further configured to accept an inquiry from a user.

108. (original) A system according to Claim 107 wherein said server system is further configured to:

display information on to the client system; and

receive an inquiry from the client system.

109. (original) A system according to Claim 108 wherein said server system is further configured to submit a request through pull down menus.

110. (original) A system according to Claim 108 wherein said server system is further configured to display an HTML document downloaded by the server system.

111. (original) A system according to Claim 108 wherein said server system is further configured to display at least one alternative out of various alternatives available to the user.

112. (original) A system according to Claim 108 wherein said server system is further configured to:

access the centralized database;

search the database regarding the specific inquiry;

retrieve information from the database; and

causing the retrieved information to be displayed on the client system.

113. (original) A system according to Claim 108 wherein said server system is further configured to submit a request through pull down menus.

114. (currently amended) A software license management system to automate a software management process for managing software assets of a business entity, measuring compliance requirements, and tracking/reporting status as necessary to assure proficiency and adherence to implementation requirements of the software management process, said system comprising:

a client system,

a centralized database for storing information, and

a server system configured to be coupled to said client system and said centralized database, said ~~server~~ management system further ~~configured to~~ comprising:

means for organizing and processing ~~organize and process~~ information using at least one of a software identification module, an acquisition module, a deployment module, a maintenance module and a software retirement module;

means for displaying an assessment worksheet on the client system, the worksheet including a plurality of questions relating to a software asset of the business entity;

means for prompting ~~prompt~~ a user to respond to the assessment worksheet including the ~~a~~ plurality of questions relating to ~~a~~ the software asset of the business entity ~~by displaying the questions on the client system~~;

means for computing ~~compute~~ a sigma value based on the user's responses to the plurality of questions to measure compliance with the software management process including compliance with software licenses associated with the software asset; and

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means for providing ~~provide~~ feedback and suggestions based on the computed sigma value to help reduce the exposure to litigation and penalties, maximize software asset utilization through tighter inventory control, and capitalize on the software procurement process.

115. (currently amended) A system for tracking software assets owned and licensed by a business entity, the business entity having a software management process, said system comprising:

a client system;~~;~~

a centralized database for storing information, and

a server system configured to be coupled to said client system and said centralized database, said ~~server~~ system further ~~configured to~~ comprising:

means for accessing ~~access~~ the centralized database containing software assets information including data relating to each software asset owned or licensed by the business entity including terms and conditions of each corresponding software license;

means for searching ~~search~~ the database regarding a specific inquiry received from a user;

means for retrieving ~~retrieve~~ information from the database;

means for causing ~~cause~~ the retrieved information to be displayed for tracking, monitoring and auditing purposes~~;~~ and

means for auditing ~~audit~~ each software asset owned or licensed by the business entity by:

transmitting data for a selected software asset from the server to the client system to display an assessment worksheet, the worksheet including at least one question relating to the selected software asset;

prompting a user to respond to the at least one question displayed on the client system; ~~relating to the corresponding software asset for quantifying compliance with the software management process of the business entity.~~

processing at the server at least one response received from the user to the at least one question displayed; and

calculating at the server a sigma value based at least in part on the at least one response received from the user, wherein the sigma value indicates compliance with the software management process of the business entity including compliance with the terms and conditions of the software license corresponding to the selected software asset.

116. (currently amended) A system for tracking software assets owned and licensed by a business entity, the business entity having a software management process, said system comprising:

a client system,

a centralized database for storing information, and

a server system configured to be coupled to said client system and said centralized database, said ~~server~~ system further ~~configured to~~ comprising:

means for displaying ~~display~~ on the client system for a user a software management assessment checklist including a series of questions relating to a software asset owned or licensed by the business entity;

means for receiving ~~receive~~ responses entered by the user through the client system to each question included within the software management assessment check list; and

means for computing ~~compute~~ a sigma value based on guidelines pre-stored within the database, wherein the sigma value indicates compliance with the software management process

of the business entity <u>including compliance with software licenses associated with the software asset</u>.

117. (currently amended) A system for tracking software assets owned and licensed by a business entity, the business entity having a software management process, said system comprising<u>:</u>

a client system,

a centralized database for storing information, <u>and</u>

a server system configured to be coupled to said client system and said centralized database, said ~~server~~ system further ~~configured to~~ <u>comprising</u>:

<u>means for storing in the database information relating to a software asset owned or licensed by the business entity including storing terms and conditions of a corresponding software license;</u>

<u>means for displaying on the client system an assessment worksheet including questions relating to the software asset;</u>

<u>means for receiving</u> ~~receive~~ user input in response to ~~specific questions relating to a software asset owned or licensed by the business entity~~ <u>the assessment worksheet</u>;

<u>means for analyzing</u> ~~analyze~~ user input against a pre-determined criteria; and

<u>means for outputting</u> ~~output~~ a sigma value based on the user input and the pre-determined criteria, wherein the sigma value indicates compliance with the software management process of the business entity <u>including compliance with the terms and conditions of the software license corresponding to the acquired software asset</u>.

118. (currently amended) A computer system for tracking software assets owned and licensed by a business entity, the business entity having a software management process, said computer system comprising<u>:</u>

a client system,

a centralized database for storing information, <u>and</u>

a server system configured to be coupled to said client system and said centralized database, said ~~server~~ <u>computer</u> system comprising:

<u>means for receiving and storing</u> ~~a receiving component that receives and stores~~ information from a user as well as ~~receives~~ <u>receiving</u> a request for specific information from the user, the information received from the user including responses to specific questions relating to a software asset owned or licensed by the business entity;

<u>means for processing</u> ~~a processing component that processes~~ the received information and ~~analyzes~~ <u>analyzing</u> the received information against a pre-determined range of management criteria to satisfy the user request; and

<u>means for downloading</u> ~~an information fulfillment component that downloads~~ the requested information to the user including a sigma value indicating compliance with the software management process of the business entity <u>including compliance with a software license associated with the software asset</u>.